

27. Verdugo Mountains : B, C, D, E, F			
Criteria Letter	Criteria Description	Criteria Met	Reason SEA meets Criteria
A	The habitat of core populations of endangered or threatened plant or animal species.	No	
B	On a regional basis, biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant or animal species that are either unique or are restricted in distribution.	Yes	The Verdugo Mountains are an extensive relatively undisturbed island of natural vegetation in an urbanized metropolitan area, a rare commodity in southern California.
C	Within Los Angeles County, biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant or animal species that are either unique or are restricted in distribution.	Yes	The Verdugo Mountains are an extensive relatively undisturbed island of natural chaparral and canyon vegetation in the Los Angeles metropolitan area. They are an important island refuge for migration among the mountain ranges of northern Los Angeles County. Aerial animals and plant seeds can easily traverse the distances between the Verdugos and the Santa Monicas, the Santa Susanas, and the San Gabriels. The Verdugo Mountains are the centerpiece of these connections—unique. The hillsides are covered by chaparral and coastal sage scrub. The canyons' riparian vegetation includes California bay, sycamores, ferns and tiger lilies. These plant communities provide habitat essential to the diverse and abundant fauna found in the area.
D	Habitat that at some point in the life cycle of a species or group of species, serves as concentrated breeding, feeding, resting, migrating grounds and is limited in availability either regionally or in Los Angeles County.	Yes	The Verdugo Mountains are an arm of the San Gabriel Mountains extending towards the eastern end of the Santa Monica Mountains in Griffith Park, only two miles distant. Aerial animals and plant seeds easily cross the gap. The Verdugos are exceedingly important for connections among the San Gabriels, the Santa Monicas, and the Santa Susanas. Genetic interchange, by way of this linkage, is important in perpetuating the genetic variability in isolated populations which maintains healthy ecosystems and resilience to climate change.
E	Biotic resources that are of scientific interest because they are either an extreme in physical/geographical	Yes	The Verdugos' geographic location makes them important for scientific study, genetic interchange between otherwise

	limitations, or represent unusual variation in a population or community.		isolated populations, and recreation for urban residents. The area has already been used for studies concerned with public health.
F	Areas that would provide for the preservation of relatively undisturbed examples of the original natural biotic communities in Los Angeles County.	Yes	The Verdugo Mountains have been impacted by dirt roads, one paved road in Tuna Canyon, fuel breaks, transmission lines and isolated buildings for houses, radio towers, and water tanks. Because of their extent, however, the Verdugos are still considered largely natural and little impacted—a prime example of the chaparral and coastal sage scrub once prevalent in Los Angeles County coastal areas.